Applicant: Karsten Schulz . Attorney's Docket No.: 13909-133001 / 2003P00549

Serial No.: 10/721,503

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## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

an audio-visual input system at a first location that is operable to receive audio-visual information associated with a user;

a gesture determination system at the first location that is operable to determine gesture information associated with a state of mind of the user <u>based on the received audio-visual</u> <u>information associated with the user</u>; and

a tele-embodiment unit at a second location that is operable to receive the gesture information and <u>automatically</u> engage in movement corresponding to the gesture information, whereby the movement of the tele-embodiment unit expresses the state of mind of the user.

- 2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the second location is a site of a conference, and the tele-embodiment unit conveys a physical presence of the user.
- 3. (Original) The system of claim 1 comprising an audio-visual output system at the second location that is operable to output the audio-visual information associated with the user.
- 4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the tele-embodiment unit includes a robotic arm associated with a monitor and camera.
- 5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the tele-embodiment unit is operable to move the monitor and camera in alignment with one another.
- 6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the gesture determination system includes a gesture control device by which the user inputs the gesture information.

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7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the gesture information includes selectable emotional states and the movement of the tele-embodiment unit is pre-programmed to correspond to a selected emotional state.

- 8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the gesture determination system includes a gesture control device that is operable to track physical movements of the user.
- 9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the gesture determination system includes a gesture interpreter for associating the physical movements with the state of mind of the user.
  - 10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising: receiving audio-visual input from a conference participant;

determining expression information associated with a non-verbal communication of the

conference participant based on the received audio-visual input from the conference participant;

transmitting the audio-visual input and the expression information to a conference location;

rendering the audio-visual input at an audio-visual output associated with a teleembodiment unit at the conference location; and

moving the tele-embodiment unit <u>automatically</u>, based on the expression information, to reflect the non-verbal communication of the conference participant.

- 11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein determining expression information comprises receiving a selection of expression information from among a pre-selected list available to the conference participant.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein determining expression information comprises:

tracking physical movements of the conference participant; and

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running a software algorithm analysis process to determine the non-verbal communication, based on the physical movements.

- 13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein moving the tele-embodiment unit comprises moving a video screen that is attached to a robot arm so as to be pivotable and movable in three dimensions.
- 14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the tele-embodiment unit has a one-to-one correspondence with the conference participant, such that a physical presence of the conference participant is conveyed at the conference location.
  - 15. (Currently Amended) A video-conferencing system comprising:

a plurality of participant input systems corresponding to a plurality of participants, each input system operable to receive audio-visual input from its corresponding participant; and

a plurality of physical conference units located at a conference location that is remote from a location of each of the participant input systems, each of the physical conference units corresponding to one of the plurality of participants and including audio-visual output capabilities,

wherein the physical conference units convey a physical presence of their corresponding participants at the conference location <u>based on the received audio-visual inputs from their corresponding participants</u>.

16. (Currently Amended) The video-conferencing system of claim 15 wherein each participant input system comprises:

a gesture determination system operable to receive gesture information associated with a state of mind of its corresponding participant <u>based on the received audio-visual input from its corresponding participant</u>; and

a remote communication handler operable to forward the gesture information and the audio-visual input to its corresponding physical conference unit.

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17. (Original) The video-conferencing system of claim 16 wherein the gesture determination system comprises:

a gesture control device operable to track physical movements of its corresponding participant; and

a gesture interpreter operable to associate the physical movements with the state of mind.

- 18. (Currently Amended) The video-conferencing system of claim 16 wherein each physical conference unit comprises a robotic unit operable to <u>automatically</u> move in coordination with the gesture information, such that the physical conference unit physically expresses the state of mind of its corresponding participant.
- 19. (Original) The video-conferencing system of claim 18 wherein the robotic unit comprises a video screen aligned with a camera and attached to a robot arm that is operable to move the video screen and camera in conjunction with the gesture information and the audio-visual input.
- 20. (Original) The video-conferencing system of claim 19 wherein the robot arm is operable to move the video screen and camera in three dimensions.
- 21. (New) The system of claim 6 wherein the gesture information includes selectable states of mind and the movement of the tele-embodiment unit is pre-programmed to correspond to a selected state of mind.